(c) Assessing and collecting fees. The Secretary will announce through periodic notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER the method of payment of fees. In determining these methods, the Secretary will consider efficiency, effectiveness and convenience for users and for the Department. Methods may include credit card, electronic funds transfer and other methods of electronic payment.

#### §61.14 Confidentiality of Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank information.

Information reported to the HIPDB is considered confidential and will not be disclosed outside the Department, except as specified in §§61.12 and 61.15. Persons and entities receiving information from the HIPDB, either directly or from another party, must use it solely with respect to the purpose for which it was provided. Nothing in this section will prevent the disclosure of information by a party from its own files used to create such reports where disclosure is otherwise authorized under applicable State or Federal law.

# § 61.15 How to dispute the accuracy of Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank information.

- (a) Who may dispute the HIPDB information. The HIPDB will routinely mail or transmit electronically to the subject a copy of the report filed in the HIPDB. In addition, as indicated in §61.12(a)(3), the subject may also request a copy of such report. The subject of the report or a designated representative may dispute the accuracy of a report concerning himself, herself or itself as set forth in paragraph (b) of this section.
- (b) Procedures for disputing a report with the reporting entity. If the subject disagrees with the reported information, the subject must request in writing that the HIPDB enter the report into "disputed status."
- (2) The HIPDB will send the report, with a notation that the report has been placed in "disputed status," to queriers (where identifiable), the reporting entity and the subject of the report.
- (3) The subject must attempt to enter into discussion with the reporting enti-

ty to resolve the dispute. If the reporting entity revises the information originally submitted to the HIPDB, the HIPDB will notify the subject and all entities to whom reports have been sent that the original information has been revised. If the reporting entity does not revise the reported information, or does not respond to the subject within 60 days, the subject may request that the Secretary review the report for accuracy. The Secretary will decide whether to correct the report within 30 days of the request. This time frame may be extended for good cause. The subject also may provide a statement to the HIPDB, either directly or through a designated representative, that will permanently append the re-

- (c) Procedures for requesting a Secretarial review. The subject must request, in writing, that the Secretary of the Department review the report for accuracy. The subject must return this request to the HIPDB along with appropriate materials that support the subject's position. The Secretary will only review the accuracy of the reported information, and will not consider the merits or appropriateness of the action or the due process that the subject received.
- (2) After the review, if the Secretary—
- (i) Concludes that the information is accurate and reportable to the HIPDB, the Secretary will inform the subject and the HIPDB of the determination. The Secretary will include a brief statement (Secretarial Statement) in the report that describes the basis for the decision. The report will be removed from "disputed status." The HIPDB will distribute the corrected report and statement(s) to previous queriers (where identifiable), the reporting entity and the subject of the report.
- (ii) Concludes that the information contained in the report is inaccurate, the Secretary will inform the subject of the determination and direct the HIPDB or the reporting entity to revise the report. The Secretary will include a brief statement (Secretarial Statement) in the report describing the findings. The HIPDB will distribute the corrected report and statement (s) to

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previous queriers (where identifiable), the reporting entity and the subject of the report.

(iii) Determines that the disputed issues are outside the scope of the Department's review, the Secretary will inform the subject and the HIPDB of the determination. The Secretary will include a brief statement (Secretarial Statement) in the report describing the findings. The report will be removed from "disputed status." The HIPDB will distribute the report and the statement(s) to previous queriers (where identifiable), the reporting entity and the subject of the report.

(iv) Determines that the adverse action was not reportable and therefore should be removed from the HIPDB, the Secretary will inform the subject and direct the HIPDB to void the report. The HIPDB will distribute a notice to previous queriers (where identifiable), the reporting entity and the subject of the report that the report has been voided.

[64 FR 57758, Oct. 26, 1999, as amended at 64 FR 71041, Dec. 20, 1999]

# §61.16 Immunity.

Individuals, entities or their authorized agents and the HIPDB shall not be held liable in any civil action filed by the subject of a report unless the individual, entity or authorized agent submitting the report has actual knowledge of the falsity of the information contained in the report.

# PART 63—GRANT PROGRAMS AD-MINISTERED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PLANNING AND EVALUATION

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AUTHORITY: Sec. 602, Community Services Act (42 U.S.C. 2942); sec. 1110, Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1310).

Source: 40 FR 23295, May 29, 1975, unless otherwise noted.

# Subpart A—General

# §63.1 Purpose and scope.

(a) Applicability. Except to the extent inconsistent with an applicable Federal statute the regulations in this part apply to all grant awards of Federal assistance made by the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation or his designee, hereinafter referred to in this part as the Assistant Secretary. Such grants include those under section 232 of the Community Services Act (42 U.S.C. 2835), section 1110 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1310), section 392A of the Communications Act of 1934, and such other authority as may be delegated to the Assistant Secretary for policy research activities.

(b) Exceptions to applicability. The award and administration of contracts and cooperative agreements by the Assistant Secretary shall not be covered by this subchapter. Contracts entered into by the Assistant Secretary shall be subject to the regulations in 41 CFR Chapters 1 and 3. Generally, the Assistant Secretary will select between grant and contract procedures and instruments, both with regard to the solicitation process and with respect to unsolicited proposals, on the basis of criteria set forth in the proposed revision